

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION

DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES FOR TREATING GLAUCOMA

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/790,242 filed February 20, 2001 (Docket No. S-ECI-020) titled *Devices and Techniques for Treating Trabecular Meshwork*, *now, U.S. Patent No. 6,682,523.*

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of glaucoma therapy and more particularly to a laser-based system and technique for treating a patient's obstructed outflows pathways in the eye to enhance aqueous outflows and thereby lower intraocular pressure. The system and method introduces uniformly dimensioned nanoparticles into meshwork spaces to provide photoabsorption of a selected wavelength to thereby deliver energy directly to media and trabecular cords of the trabecular meshwork.

Description of Related Art

Glaucoma is a general term given to a group of debilitating eye diseases that afflict approximately 1%-2% of the U.S. population and an estimated 67 million people worldwide. In the U.S., the incidence of glaucoma rises with age to over 6% of the Caucasian population 75 years and older, and about 11% of the population of African descent 75 years and older. Glaucoma represents a significant health care issue, with millions of people worldwide at risk of vision loss.